



# PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Western District of Wisconsin  
(608) 264-5158  
TTY (608) 264-5006

---

## For Immediate Release

September 8, 2005

## Contact Person

John W. Vaudreuil  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Donald K. Fairbanks, DOB: 5/28/80, formerly of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO) near Hayward, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty yesterday in United States District Court in Madison. Fairbanks pleaded guilty to a charge that he assisted others in using and maintaining a "crack house" for the manufacturing and sell of crack cocaine on the LCO Reservation; he also pleaded guilty to distribution of crack cocaine in May 2003. Fairbanks faces a total maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb, who accepted the guilty pleas, will decide on a sentencing date in the future.

The government's proof at the guilty plea hearing established that John and Candace Radermacher rented the home of Yvonne Dennis on the LCO Reservation from January 2001 to approximately the end of October 2002 to cook, package, and sell crack cocaine. The Radermachers paid Dennis in crack cocaine. Fairbanks assisted in this operation by selling crack cocaine and helping to package crack cocaine at the Dennis residence. On May 27, 2003, during the undercover investigative phase of this case, an individual cooperating with law enforcement attempted to buy crack cocaine from Fairbanks; since he was not holding any crack cocaine at that time, Fairbanks referred

her to his partner, Anthony Gouge. Gouge then sold crack cocaine to the cooperating individual. Gouge previously pleaded and was sentenced on December 17, 2004, to 6½ years in prison.

Thirty-four people have previously been sentenced to prison as a result of this long-term investigation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. In addition to Fairbanks, Andre Lasieur and Nicholas Thayer have pleaded guilty and are pending sentencing. Eight other gang members are scheduled for trial on December 5, 2005. Prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

# # # #